



NEWS RELEASE

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**Man Charged with Attacking Police Officer,  
Others at Landscaping Business in Torrance**

A 44-year-old man was charged today with attempted murder and several other felony counts after attacking two men and a police officer in Torrance, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Deputy District Attorney Manuel Almada said José Félix Campos Cortez (dob 2/29/72) of Compton faces one felony count each of attempted murder of a peace officer and assault upon a peace officer and two felony counts each of assault with a deadly weapon and vandalism over \$400.

Arraignment in case YAO94031 is scheduled today in Department 4 of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Torrance Branch.

On April 12, Cortez is alleged to have thrown rocks at the owner of a landscaping business with whom he had previously worked. When a security guard attempted to intervene, the defendant is alleged to have chased the guard with a chainsaw while trying to start it, prosecutors said.

The felony complaint also charges Cortez with vandalism for allegedly ramming the owner's vehicle with his large work truck. When police officers arrived at the scene, the defendant allegedly aimed his truck and accelerated toward an officer causing the officer to move out of the way, prosecutors added. Officers fired their weapons, however, Cortez was uninjured and arrested thereafter.

The prosecutor will request \$1 million bail. If convicted as charged, Cortez faces a possible maximum sentence of life in state prison.

The case remains under investigation by the Torrance Police Department.

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## **About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office**

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.